

IN THE CLAIMS:

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Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a packaging container from a packaging material comprising:

(a) transporting the packaging material along a packaging material transport path, through a cap attachment station, to a charging station;

(b) transporting a carrier sheet with a plurality of caps thereon to the cap attachment station, to feed caps in succession to the cap attachment station;

(c) at the cap attachment station, separating each cap in succession and (a) attaching the separated a cap onto a cap attachment portion of the packaging material prior to forming the packaging material;

(d) (b) then forming the packaging material, on which the cap has been attached, into a predetermined shape; and

(e) at the charging station, (c) charging a liquid food into the formed packaging material.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a packaging container according to claim 10, wherein:

(a) the packaging material is in a web-like sheet form before forming; and

(b) the packaging material on which the cap has been attached is formed into a tubular shape.

12. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a packaging container according to claim 10, wherein:

the cap includes a collar and a lid which is seated on the collar in a closed state; and

step (a) includes:

fixing the cap onto the packaging material;

unseating the lid from the collar to open the cap;

punching a hole in an area of the packaging material surrounded by the collar;

welding an inner tape onto a reverse surface area of the packaging material around the hole and a pull tab onto an outer surface area of the packaging material around the hole in order to cover the hole; and

welding together the inner tape and the pull tab in the area of the hole to thereby form a rupture portion.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a packaging container according to claim 10, wherein:

~~(a)~~ the cap includes a collar; and

step (a) includes:

punching a hole in an area of the packaging material surrounded by the collar;

welding an inner tape onto a reverse surface of an area of the packaging material around the hole and a pull tab onto an outer surface of an area of the packaging material around the hole in order to cover the hole; and

welding together the inner tape and the pull tab through the hole to thereby form a rupture portion.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a packaging container according to claim 10, wherein:

a thin wall portion is preformed in the packaging material prior to forming the packaging container;

the cap includes a collar and a lid which is seated on the collar in a closed state; and

step (a) includes:

fixing the cap onto the packaging material with the collar surrounding the thin wall portion;

unseating the lid from the collar to open the cap; and

welding a pull tab onto an outer surface area of the packaging material in order to cover an area surrounded by the collar portion.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a packaging container according to claim 10, wherein:

a thin wall portion is preformed in the packaging material before the packaging material is subjected to forming;

the cap includes a collar; and

step (a) includes:

fixing the cap onto the packaging material with the collar surrounding the thin wall

portion; and

welding a pull tab onto an outer surface of the packaging material in order to cover an area surrounded by the collar portion.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a packaging container according to claim 10:

wherein the cap includes a lip; and

wherein step (a) includes:

punching a hole in the packaging material; and

welding an inner tape onto a reverse surface of the packaging material and covering the hole and welding a lip onto an outer surface of the packaging material via a pull tab, said lip at least partially surrounding the hole, and at the same time welding together the inner tape and the pull tab through the hole to thereby form a rupture portion.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a packaging container according to claim 10 wherein the cap includes a lip and wherein step (a) includes:

fixing the a lip onto a packaging material;

forming a discharge opening portion within an area of the packaging material at least partially surrounded by the lip; and

bonding a pull tab to the outer surface of the packaging material to cover the discharge opening portion.

18. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a packaging container according to claim 17, further comprising bonding an inner tape to the reverse surface of the packaging material to cover the discharge opening portion.

112 19. (New) A method of manufacturing a packaging container according to claim 10 wherein the packaging material transported from the cap attachment station to the charging station has a plurality of attached caps spaced along its length;

said process further comprising:

transversely cutting the packaging material carrying the spaced plurality of attached caps to form separate packaging container portions.

20. (New) A method of manufacturing a packaging material according to claim 19 wherein the carrier sheet is in the form of a tape carrying a single linear array of the caps.

21. (New) A method of manufacturing a packaging material according to claim 1 wherein the carrier sheet is in the form of a tape carrying a single linear array of the caps.

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